

High Marks

Construction Academy Students Responding to a Senior Exit Survey, Class of 2009:

72% planned to have a career in Alaska
79% were aware of construction jobs available to them after graduation from high school
83.4 % said the construction trade classes had a powerful or positive influence in preparing them for a career
77 % said that construction trade classes had a powerful or positive influence on their self confidence
86 % said that taking construction classes increased their desire to attend school and reduce absences



Existing Construction Academies: Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, Juneau, Ketchikan.

Proposed Rural Construction Academies: Nome, Kodiak, Dillingham, Bethel, and King Salmon

Kathleen Castle, Executive Director
Alaska Construction Academies



We have also increased our scope and have taken the preliminary steps to open five academies in rural communities. While we have many valuable partners in this endeavor, the continued funding by the State allows us to work with other partners to provide workplace opportunities for young people and adults. The following report will give you a recap of our efforts and our accomplishments. We are proud of the program, our advisory board, and all of our partners. Working together, we can make a difference for many students.

As we conclude our fourth year of operations, we are pleased to report that the Alaska Construction Academies are continuing to show success in each location. With a continuing demand for construction workers statewide, we trained more than 3,400 students and 500 adults during this past year. Some of these students are still in school, some are going to further their education, and some chose other career options. But we believe that those that decided to pursue a career in construction are technically competent and possess the aptitude and attitude necessary to succeed in the industry.



Richard Cattanaach, CEO
Construction Education Foundation

Dear Alaskan:

Alaska Construction Academies 2009 Year-End Report



Statewide Advisory Board

The AkCA has a statewide Advisory Board whose members are:

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Deputy Commissioner, Michael Black
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Commissioner, Larry LeDoux
Alaska State School Board, Chair, Esther Cox
Alaska State Home Building Association, Director, Vicki Portwood
Alaska State Home Building Association, President, Russ Mc Dougal
Construction Education Foundation, CEO Richard Cattanaach
Alaska Works Partnership, Inc., Director, Mike Andrews
Alaska Construction Academies, Director, Kathleen Castle
Alaska State Legislature, Senator, Charlie Huggins
Alaska State Legislature, Representative, Mark Neuman
Associated General Contractors of Alaska, Director, John MacKinnon



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National Awards

In 2009 the AkCA earned two National awards for their accomplishments in workforce development. Those awards are:

- Recognition of Excellence for Leveraging the Power of Partnership from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training and the
- Outstanding Contribution in Construction Industry Workforce Development from the Construction Users Roundtable.

Alaska Construction Academies

2009 Year-End Report

Labor market data shows that more than 1,000 construction workers are needed in Alaska each year for several years to meet construction job growth and to replace retiring workers. The Alaska Construction Academies (AkCA) were created in 2006 to attract and train young people and adults for entry-level jobs in construction and trade apprenticeship programs. The goal is to serve industry by providing knowledgeable, motivated, entry-level employees and to serve students and job seekers by giving them the chance to explore their aptitudes and interests under the guidance of experienced, hands-on instructors from the industry.

The first Academy was located in Anchorage and was a result of partnerships between the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Alaska, Anchorage Home Builders Association, Anchorage School District, Alaska Works Partnership, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

In 2007, because of the success of the Anchorage program, the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development funded the continuation of the Anchorage Construction Academy and the expansion of the program to the communities of Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan and the Mat-Su Valley. Academies were started in each Alaskan community with a local Home Builders Association.

In 2008, Governor Palin approved \$3.5 million to continue the Academies in 6 urban communities and to expand with pilot rural outreach programs. This report is a summary of some of the successes of the Alaska Construction Academy efforts in 2008-2009.

For more information about the Academies and future efforts see our website at www.alaskaca.org or contact Kathleen Castle at Kathleen@alaskaca.org or by calling (907) 222-0999.



Partnerships Benefit All Who Participate

Alaska Job Centers (DOLWD), Alaska Works Partnership, Anchorage Home Builders Association, Associated General Contractors of Alaska, Alaska Apprenticeship and Training Coordinators Association, Anchorage School District, Construction Education Foundation, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Fairbanks North Star School Borough District, Interior Alaska Homebuilding Association, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District, Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association, University of Alaska Ketchikan, Ketchikan Indian Community, Ketchikan Youth Initiatives, Kenai Peninsula Builders Association, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Peak Oilfield Services, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Seldovia Tribal Corporation, Peak Oilfield Services, Southeast Regional Resource Center, Northern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association, Juneau School District, University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Building Trades Council, Alaska Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262, Mat-Su Home Builders Association, Mat-Su Borough School District, Chugach School District, Lake and Peninsula School District, Kuspuk School District, Northwestern Academy Career & Technical Center, Chenega Bay IRA Council, Tatitlek IRA Council, and Chugach Corporation, Davis Constructors and Engineers, Associated Builders and Contractors.

List of Classes Offered in High Schools

- Carpentry
- Electricity
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Small Engine Repair
- Intro to Carpentry
- Intro to Electricity
- Intro to Masonry
- Intro to Plumbing
- Intro to Welding
- Intro to Small Engine Repair
- Material Science and Construction Trades
- Construction Electricity
- Construction Plumbing
- Surveying and Blueprint Reading
- Applied Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)
- Construction Logistics
- Woods 1 & 2
- Building Trades
- Welding Fabrication
- Design Drafting 1 & 2
- Power Mechanics 1 & 2
- Civil Engineering and Architecture
- Digital Electronics
- Building Planning and Design
- Technical Communications
- Housing Concepts

Short Course Certifications

- Fork Lift Driving
- OSHA 10
- HILTI
- OPET
- NATEF & AYES

List of Classes Offered For Adults

- Carpentry
- Welding
- Drywall Hanging/Taping/Floorcovering
- Residential Wiring
- Hydronic Heating
- Weatherization
- Sheet Metal-HVAC
- Electrical
- Basic Construction Techniques
- Building Construction I&II
- Cold Climate Coastal Construction

Short Course Certifications

- Fork Lift Safety Training
- OSHA 10
- Scaffolding/Fall Protection
- First Aid/CPR
- North Slope Training Certificate
- Cook Inlet Training Certificate

Urban Programs

Training

The mission for AkCA is to train students and adults with little technical experience to obtain basic skills and entry-level employment in construction related industries. Our first task is to provide training for students in middle and high schools and for adults. The table below reports the number of middle and high school students and adults trained in each urban community in the past two years.

Community	2007-2008	2008-2009
Anchorage:		
Students Trained	1087	970
Adults Trained	146	188
Fairbanks:		
Students Trained	443	435
Adults Trained	93	115
Juneau:		
Students Trained	422	555
Adults Trained	32	58
Kenai Peninsula:		
Students Trained	491	767
Adults Trained	16	73
Ketchikan:		
Students Trained	33	40
Adults Trained	10	11
Mat-Su:		
Students Trained	751	635
Adults Trained	18	57
Totals:		
Students Trained	3227	3402
Adults Trained	315	502



Employment

High School Programs:

- Determining employment outcomes at the high school level is very difficult so in spring 2009 the AkCA communities of Anchorage, Juneau and Mat-Su piloted the use of a student tracking system

purchased from LifeTrack, a company that follows students from the date of graduation for the next 5 years. In cooperation with the 3 pilot communities, AkCA developed a survey for high school seniors in construction related classes. In 2010, all school districts are required to use LifeTrack.

- One outstanding accomplishment of the Anchorage Construction Academy secondary program is the result of their spring Job Fair for high school seniors. In 2008, 71 students participated in the Job Fair and 100% of the students were hired by the end of the following month. In 2009, by July 15, 82 of 85 students had been hired as a result of contacts made at the Job Fair and further employment is expected.

Adult Programs:

In early summer 2009, AkCA contracted with Alaska Works Partnerships (AWP) to conduct a phone survey with all 2008 and 2009 adult AkCA course completers. The results of the survey are reflected in the table (right).

Community	% Surveyed	% Adults Working in July 2009	% Adults Took Multiple Classes
Anchorage	72% (96 of 134)	73%	19%
Fairbanks	83% (35 of 42)	65%	Not Available
Juneau	90% (52 of 58)	71%	17%
Kenai Peninsula	70% (54 of 77)	70%	13%
Ketchikan	82% (9 of 11)	88%	100%
Mat-Su	75% (35 of 47)	77%	20%

Curriculum

High School Programs:

- All 6 CA school districts use the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum for several classes and offer industry certifications when earned by students.

- Five school districts have tech prep agreements between their district and the UA system and apprenticeship programs for several construction related classes.

Adult Programs:

- Three adult programs administer the Key Train test of math abilities to assess applicant skills.

- Adult instructors offer Course Certificates for course completers.



Rural Outreach Programs

The AkCA Statewide Advisory Board encouraged staff to explore the possibility of serving students and adults in rural Alaska using the Construction Academy model. Considerable progress was made in offering training in pilot sites listed below.

Chugach School District-High School Program

Chugach School District received a grant from the AkCA to prepare rural youth for the world of work with a focus on the construction industry in Alaska. Highlights from the Chugach program include:

- Number of Participants: 33
- Number of program completers: 30 with a success rate of 91%
- Participating School Districts:
 - Chugach
 - Lake & Peninsula
 - Kuspuk
 - Bering Straits
- Number student earning an NCCER Certificate: 30
- Number students earning a WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate: 10

Sitka Intensive Weatherization Institute-Adult Program

May 11 through May 15, AWP and AkCA teamed-up to offer a one week intensive course for graduating high school seniors and out-of-school youth. Students were recruited from rural communities in Alaska. Highlights from the Sitka Institute include:

- Number of Participants: 14
- Number Working: 57%
- Participants came from:
 - St. Mary's
 - Dillingham
 - St. Paul
 - Hoonah
 - Haines
 - Metlakatla
 - Ketchikan
 - Angoon
 - Sitka

King Salmon ● Bethel ● Kodiak ● Nome ● Dillingham

In spring 2009 staff contacted potential partners in the regions of King Salmon, Bethel, Kodiak, Nome, and Dillingham. The AkCA model was discussed and a strategy for serving these regions began.

